Export of F.C.V. Tobacco by STC.

3872. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total quantity of F.C.V. tobacco exported by S.T.C.;

(b) who fulfilled this order;

(c) whether it was passed on to some middlemen;

(d) whether there is any representation have been received by Government to pass on the order to the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Cooperative Federation; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) A total quantity of 240 tonnes of FCV tobacco has been exported by the STC during the financial year 1992-93.

(b) STC fulfilled this order by arranging/procuring supplies from its associate suppliers in Guntur.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. STC was willing to apportion some quantity to the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Union if any export order for additional quantity was received. Since STC did not receive any export order for additional quantity, no business could be given to the Co-operative Union during 1992-93.

Recommendations of High Powered Committee on Tobacco

3873. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powerful committee was appointed by the Government to study long term strategy on tobacco;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the committee; and

(c) what steps have been taken to implement those recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The salient recommendations of the Committee and the action taken thereon have been given in reply to Rajya Sabha unstarred question No. 2364 answered on 15-3-1993.

Sale of Tobacco from Auction Platforms

3874. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco board has resolved resorting to impose penal provisions to curb sales of tobacco outside auction platforms; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to implement these recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Signing of New Trade Pact with European Community

3875. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to sign any new trade pact with European Community; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal under consideration to sign a new Indo-EEC Cooperation Agreement. This seeks to retain the positive elements of the existing Agreement, besides broadening the scope of cooperation to cover a wider range of subjects.

Strategy for Export Growth

3876. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Extreme Focus Group has suggested that the export products should carry the mark 'Made with pride in India' as strategy for export growth; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to implement the suggestion ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have launched a major nation-wide campaign on quality awareness, in association with trade and industry to encourage our exproters to attain internationally accepted standards of quality.

Impact of Dunkel Proposals on Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

@3876-A. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the impact of Dunkel proposals on Indian Pharmaceutical Industry; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to protect the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Uruguay Round Negotiations are still in progress. It is generally recognised that a system for protection of intellectual property rights is needed as an incentive to encourage innovative effort. At the same time, it is necessary to strike a reasonable balance between the rights granted to them and their obligations, so that public interest needs are served. Government is seeking improvements in the Dunkel Text in the area of patents to meet public interest concerns.

Exploitation of Indian Women in Gulf Countries

@@3877. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly fifty thousand young women from Kerala and other parts of India have been working as domestic servants in the Gulf countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these women are being exploited and treated like bonded slaves; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No precise information with regard to the number of house maids working as domestic servants in the Gulf countries is available. The number may be assumed to be about 50,000.

(b) and (c) The Indian Missions from time to time receive complaints of maltreatment from the maids working in the Gulf countries, though the number of complaints is not large. Whenever approached, the Missions render every possible assistance to the maids and contact the sponsors for redressal of the grievances. In many cases, the Missions provide shelter to the maids before they can find any other appointment. If destitute, the Missions also repatriate them to India at Government's expense.

The Goverament is conscious of the need to look after the welfare of the Indians wroking in the Gulf countries. Bilateral consultations are held with these countries from time to time and the welfare of the Indian workers is also discussed through such meetings.

@Previously unstarred Question 3665, transferred from 24th March, 1993.

@@Previously unstarred Question 3170, transferred from 19th March 1393,